

## Message Text

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 07027 272134Z

64

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 066186

O 271850Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0695

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DACCA NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 7027

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, IN, BG

SUBJ: INDO-PAK TALKS

REF: NEW DELHI 9929,

ISLAMABAD 6996

1. I AM SOMEWHAT BEMUSED BY PAK REQUEST AS SUBMITTED  
BY SATTAR TO SCHNEIDER. INsofar AS I CAN UNDERSTAND  
WHAT SATTAR PROPOSED, I HAVE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

A) IN GENERAL, WE HAVE CONTINUING INTEREST IN  
SUCCESS OF INDO-PAK TALKS WHICH WOULD LEAD TO EASING OF  
TENSIONS AMONG PAKISTAN, INDIA AND BANGLADESH. THAT IS THE  
ONE REASON IN FAVOR OF OUR AGREEING TO SATTAR'S PROPOSAL.

B) IF EMBASSY DACCA SHOULD BE OF OPINION THAT  
PAK POSITION (AS SATTAR PROPOSED WE PRESENT IT IN  
DACCA) WOULD HAVE GOOD CHANCE OF BEING ACCEPTED  
BY BDG, IT MIGHT BE WORTH TAKING RISK OF BREAKING WITH OUR  
PAST POSITION OF BEING UNWILLING TO ACT AS INTERMEDIARY  
BETWEEN GOP AND BDG. WHILE I HAVE BELIEVED WE WERE  
SOMETIMES OVERCAUTIOUS IN OUR UNWILLINGNESS TO PASS  
MESSAGES, SATTAR'S PROPOSAL GOES FURTHER THAN HAVING US  
ACT AS MERELY POST OFFICE AND WOULD TEND TO PUT US IN  
THE MIDDLE NOT ONLY BETWEEN GOP AND BDG BUT ALSO BETWEEN GOP  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ISLAMA 07027 272134Z

AND GOI.

C) ALTHOUGH I DEFER TO EMBASSY DELHI ON THIS  
POINT, IT OCCURS TO ME THAT GOI WOULD PROBABLY TAKE TIM

VIEW OF OUR AGREEING TO PUT PAK PROPOSAL TO BDG ON GROUNDS THAT GOI COULD NOT BE TRUSTED TO DO SO ITSELF IN OBJECTIVE MANNER. THE INDIANS WOULD SURELY LEARN GROUNDS ON WHICH WE HAD AGREED TO SUBMIT PROPOSAL TO BDG.

D) WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO PAK PROPOSAL DESCRIBED BY SATTAR, I AM TROUBLED BY FACT THAT IT DOES NOT JIBE PRECISELY WITH LATEST GOP POSITION AS DESCRIBED TO ME BY PRIMIN BHUTTO MORNING AUGUST 26. WHEREAS SATTAR SAYS THE GOP PROPOSED THAT ALL PAK POWS BE RELEASED, BHUTTO TOLD ME GOI WAS BEING ASKED TO REDUCE TO VERY MINIMUM THE NUMBER OF POWS WHO WOULD BE RETAINED SUBJECT TO TALKS RE TRIALS. BHUTTO DID NOT MENTION TO ME PROPOSAL THAT GOP WOULD RECOGNIZE BDG BEFORE ALL POWS HAD ACTUALLY RETURNED TO PAKISTAN, BUT ON OTHER HAND THIS WOULD BE ONLY SLIGHT MODIFICATION OF PREVIOUSLY ENUNCIATED GOP POSITION THAT PAKISTAN WOULD RECOGNIZE BD ONCE TRIALS WERE RENOUNCED AND ALL POWS WERE REPATRIATED. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT BHUTTO, HAVING FLOOD PROBLEMS AND OTHER MATTERS ON HIS MIND, USED SHORTHAND IN DESCRIBING TO ME HIS LATEST POSITION, BUT THIS IS THE ONE SUBJECT ON WHICH I PERMITTED MYSELF TO MAKE NOTES DURING OUR MEETING AND I AM CONFIDENT I DESCRIBED ACCURATELY IN ISLAMABAD REFTEL WHAT HE SAID. THUS, IF WE AGREED TO TRANSMIT PROPOSAL AS DESCRIBED BY SATTAR WE COULD POSSIBLY BE IN EMBARRASSING POSITION OF HAVING TO TELL BHUTTO WE TRANSMITTED A PROPOSAL WHICH SEEMED A BIT DIFFERENT THAN THE ONE HE HIMSELF DESCRIBED TO ME.

2. SINCE BHUTTO MADE NO MENTION TO ME OF POSSIBLY TRANSMITTING LATEST PAK PROPOSAL TO BDG, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY TO ME THAT AZIZ AHMED CHECKED THIS OUT WITH BHUTTO BEFORE HAVING SATTAR CONTACT SCHNEIDER. THIS MAY OR MAY NOT BE PARTICULARLY PERTINENT BECAUSE AHMED PRESUMABLY HAS AUTHORITY TO TAKE INITIATIVE SUCH AS SATTAR PROPOSAL TO US.

3. ON BALANCE, I FEEL WE SHOULD FINESSE THIS ONE  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ISLAMA 07027 272134Z

AS GRACEFULLY AS WE CAN AND TELL SATTAR WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD NOT GET BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND INDIA OR BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND BD OR BETWEEN INDIA AND BD AT THIS ADVANCED STAGE OF THEIR NEGOTIATIONS, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE MOST SINCERE HOPE THAT CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS WILL SUCCEED. MY POSITION WOULD BE DIFFERENT, HOWEVER, IF EMBASSY DACCA BELIEVED THAT BDG WOULD ACCEPT PROPOSAL DESCRIBED BY SATTAR AND THAT CURRENT TALKS WOULD BREAK DOWN EXCEPT IF WE TRANSMITTED PAK PROPOSAL.  
SOBER

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 10 MAY 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 AUG 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973ISLAMA07027  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** 11652 GDS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** P730008-1797  
**From:** ISLAMABAD  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730869/abqcefcx.tel  
**Line Count:** 108  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** NEW DELHI 9929, ISLAMABAD 6996  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17 DEC 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <17-Dec-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <08-Jan-2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** INDO-PAK TALKS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, IN, GB, PK  
**To:** STATE NIACT INFO NEW DELHI NIACT  
DACC NIACT  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005